Saiku no Jinsei
Second Part
SAYAMA-SAN, GOOD MORNING!!

DON'T PLAY DUMB.
THE TRAINS WEREN'T RUNNING BY THE TIME WE LEFT THE MIXER...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SO HOW DID IT GO YESTERDAY?
OH, AFTERWARDS...
come on!
SO YOU HAD TO TAKE A TAXI WITH THAT REALLY HOT GIRL!!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
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わく
AND THEN?!
SO WE DROPPED BY HER PLACE FIRST...
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS DRUNK

DON'T TELL ME YOU LEFT WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING...?!
I DID.
NOTHING?
WHAT...
?
WHY WON'T YOU GET A GIRLFRIEND? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN'T GET CHICKS.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY BALLS?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!!
I DO.
COME ON, TELL ME!!
OR YOU'RE ACTUALLY A HOMO?!
MAYBE YOU HAVE REALLY HIGH STANDARDS?!
IS IT CAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED?!

WELL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY'RE UP TO THESE DAYS THOUGH.
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THERE'S A PERSON I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT.
I'M WHERE I AM NOW THANKS TO THEM, SO...

YAMAMOTO... EVERYBODY'S LOOKING.
WAAA AH!!
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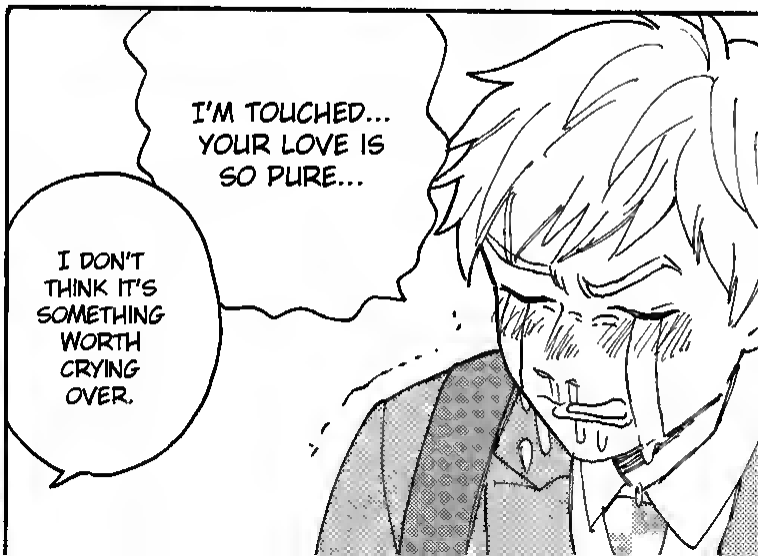
I'M TOUCHED... YOUR LOVE IS SO PURE...
I DON'T THINK IT'S SOMETHING WORTH CRYING OVER.

I REALLY DO WONDER WHERE HE IS AND WHAT HE'S DOING.
IS HE STILL GETTING INTO FIGHTS?
IS HE GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE?
I HOPE HE'S EATING RIGHT...
I SOUND LIKE A WORRIED MOM FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE.
Sigh
In the end I gat inta an university and then started warking at this campany.
It wasn't at randam, this was the path I actually chose far myself.

I'm even taking the same train I used to take back in high school.
I thought I might see Senpai again if I stayed in this city.
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THE TRAIN IS ARRIVING
If I ever saw him him again...
PLEASE BE CAREFUL....

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メラ

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...TRACK 2
WILL BE DEPARTING SOON....

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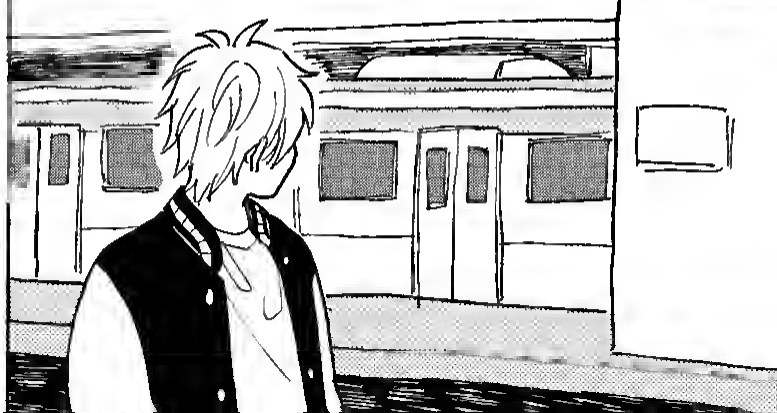
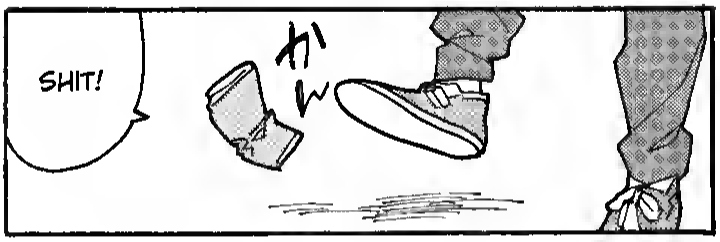


A few hours earlier
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU EVER AGAIN!
GET OUT!!
YOU'RE SO FUCKING STUBBORN!!
AS IF I'D WANT TO WORK IN THIS DUMP ANYWAY!!


SHIT!
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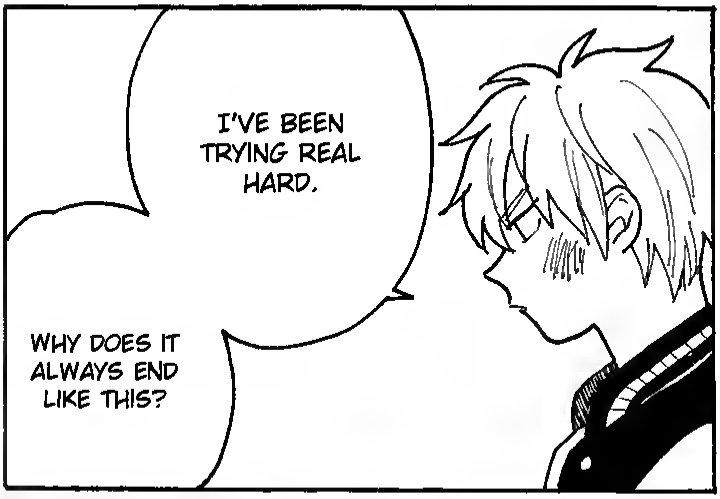
W

DAMN, THAT HURT.
THAT ASSHOLE REALLY HIT ME HARD.


I'VE BEEN TRYING REAL HARD.
WHY DOES IT ALWAYS END LIKE THIS?

Drug Store
特売日
68
Ever since I dropped out of High school
I've been moving from one ploce to onother.
I'M PATHETIC.
Sigh

WELL I DID MANAGE TO LAST A COUPLE MONTHS... I'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO LIVE.
I only came back here
because I faund a good live-in jab.
OH RIGHT, THIS IS THE TRAIN I USED TO TAKE TO SCHOOL.
I WONDER IF HE'S STILL LIVING IN THIS CITY.
NO WAY, DUDE!
SERI-OUSLY,

IF I WERE TO RUN INTO HIM... YEAH, NO WAY THAT'LL HAPPEN.
I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING.
WELL IT'S HIM WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SO I'M SURE HE'S DOING GREAT...
SENPAI!
SA...

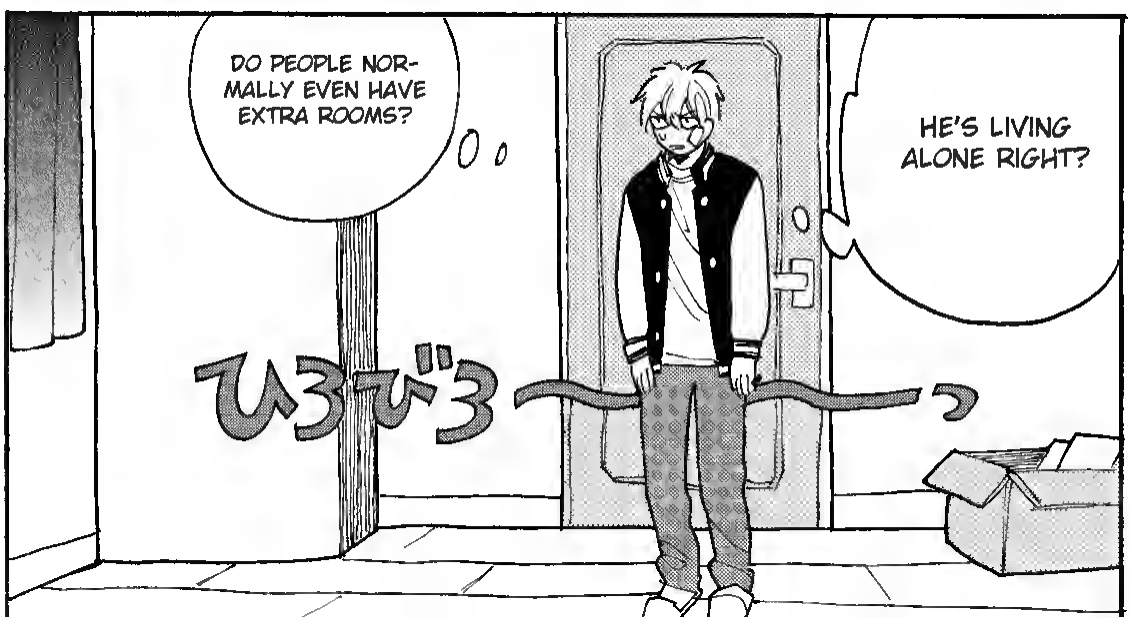
SAYAMA...
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
HOW? NOTHING SPECIAL...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I RAN INTO HIM...
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

WELL RIGHT NOW I'M HOMELESS THOUGH...
むぃ むぃ
I STAYED FOR A WHILE WITH SOME LADY WHO HELPED ME OUT AFTER I WAS NEARLY DEAD,
I'VE BEEN DOING SOME MANUAL LABOR DURING THE DAY, AND I'VE HAD TO SLEEP ON THE STREETS SOMETIMES.
SO IT'S BEEN PRETTY NORMAL I GUESS.
NORMAL ...?
ガシッ
IF YOU HAVE NO-WHERE TO GO,
WHY DON'T YOU STAY AT MY PLACE?
ぎゅ
WH-WHAT?
ドジ...

SENPAI, THE ELEVATOR'S OVER HERE.
A hotel?
Is this an apartment house?
.....

I HAVE AN EXTRA ROOM THAT YOU CAN USE...

WE REALLY DO LIVE IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLDS.


DO PEOPLE NORMALLY EVEN HAVE EXTRA ROOMS?
HE'S LIVING ALONE RIGHT?
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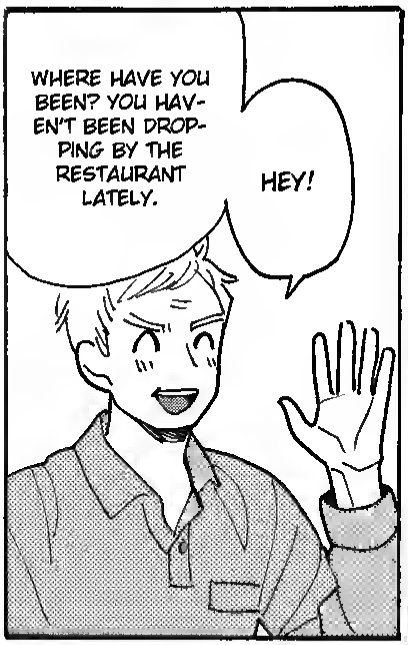
I USED TO.
BUT I LEFT THEM BEHIND.
JEEZ, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.
FOOD
YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANGE OF CLOTHES OR ANYTHING ELSE...
¥168
IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE MOVING IN TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME.
BUT THIS WAY...

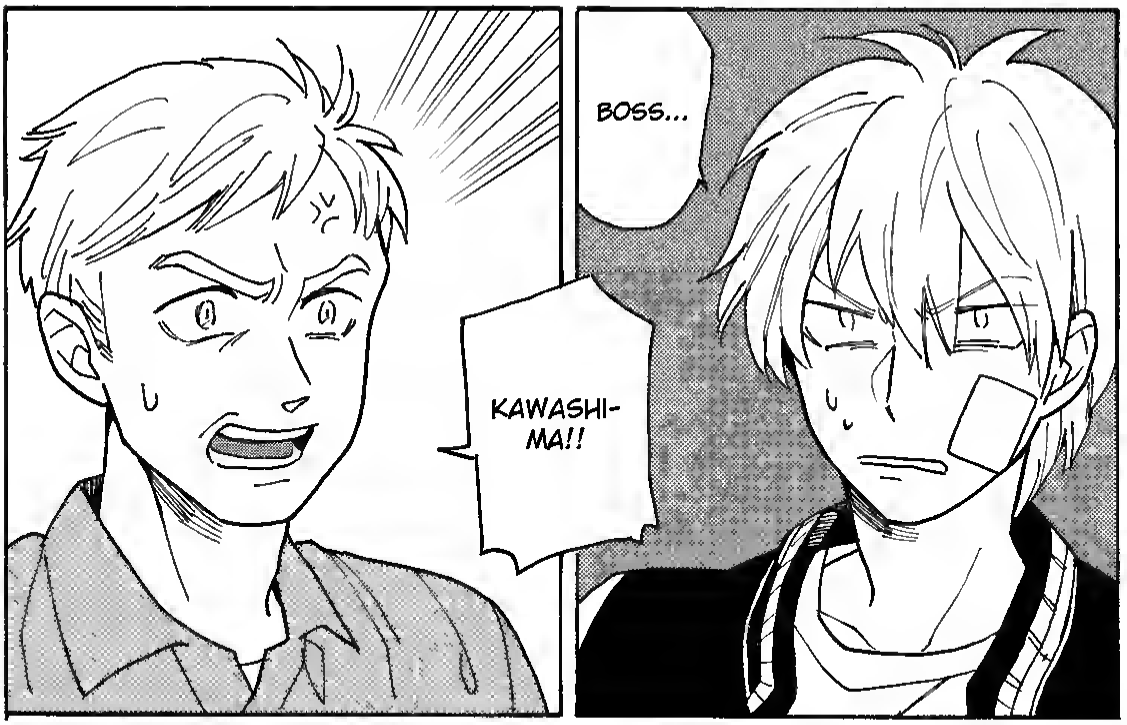
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
HUH?

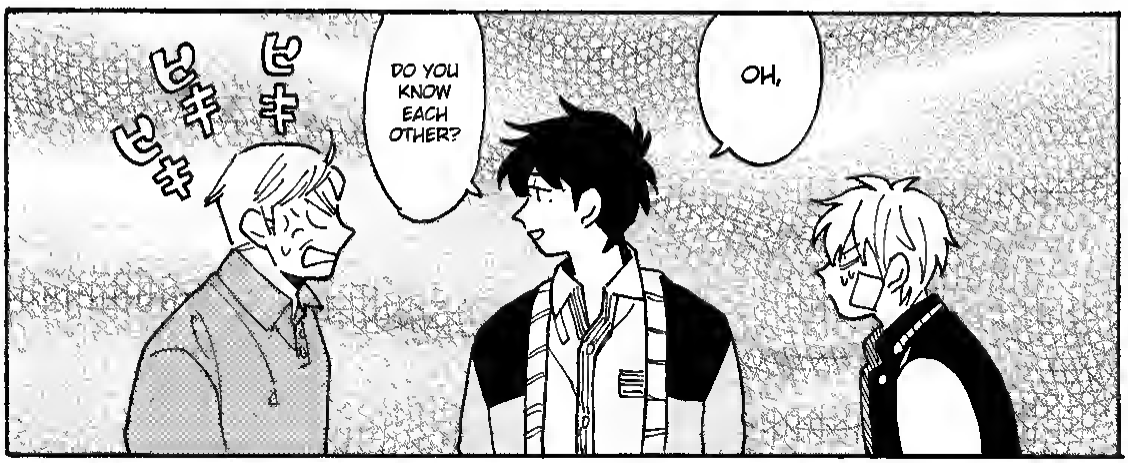

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DROPPING BY THE RESTAURANT LATELY.
HEY!

SAYAMA-KUN?!

I'M SO SORRY.

I WAS OUT SHOPPING AND JUST DECIDED TO DROP BY HERE.
HM?
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU, SUZUI-SAN!


BOSS...
KAWASHI-MA!!

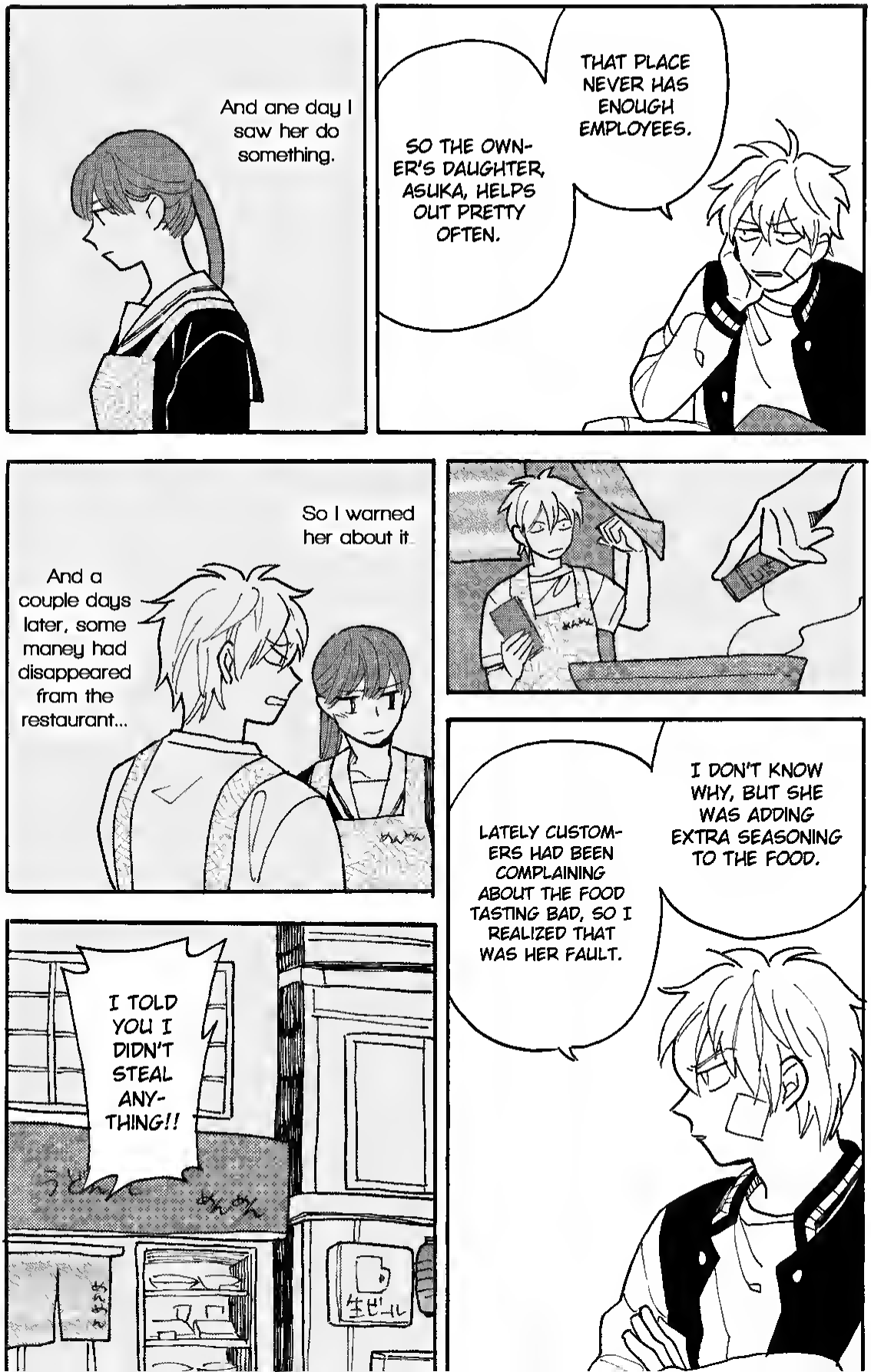

DO YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
OH,

HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM?
WHY ARE YOU HANG-ING AROUND THIS GUY?!
UM... WE WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL...
DO YOU KNOW THE KIND OF PERSON HE IS?!

TSK
THIS GUY'S A THIEF!!
I WOULD BE CAREFUL IF I WAS YOU

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
SHUT UP ALREADY!! IT WAS MY FAULT ANYWAY.
WHATEVER, WHO CARES. IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
HUH?
SENPAI, DID YOU USE TO WORK AT SUZUI-SAN'S RESTAURANT?
THAT WOUND... WAS IT FROM A FIGHT?

DON'T GET ANGRY. PLEASE TELL ME.
SENPAI, CALM DOWN.
HUH?! COME ON!
I'M SURE IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.
Sigh
.....
.....
OKAY ?
ポスン


And one day I saw her do something.
THAT PLACE NEVER HAS ENOUGH EMPLOYEES.
SO THE OWNER'S DAUGHTER, ASUKA, HELPS OUT PRETTY OFTEN.
So I warned her about it.
And a couple days later, some money had disappeared from the restaurant...
LATELY CUSTOMERS HAD BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD TASTING BAD, SO I REALIZED THAT WAS HER FAULT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT SHE WAS ADDING EXTRA SEASONING TO THE FOOD.
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!!

THE PLACE WAS LOCKED UP!!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE STOLEN IT!
DON'T ASSUME IT WAS ME FROM THE BEGINNING!
GIVE ME A BREAK!
WHAT?
I BET YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S BEEN HURTING THE PLACE'S REPUTATION TOO.
JUST GET OUT, I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
FINE, TAKE THE MONEY.
YOU BASTARD!!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
...!

AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT THEN...
GET OUT!!
I SHOULD'VE NEVER HIRED SOMEONE LIKE YOU!!
HE SAID IT WAS ME SO THAT'S HOW IT ENDED.
IT WAS PROBABLY HIS DAUGHTER WHO STOLE IT, RIGHT?
Well I do!!
I DON'T REALLY CARE.
...
YEAH, WHATEVER.
AND YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT?!

THEY'RE REALLY BUSY RIGHT NOW...
I CAME TO TALK TO HIM, BUT...
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カラカラ
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU ASUKA-SAN?
I'M KAWASHI-MA-SAN'S FRIEND.
!
NOBU-KUN'S FRIEND ?
...WHAT DO YOU WANT? IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A DATE I'LL HAVE TO REFUSE.
OH. NO, THAT'S NOT IT...

.....
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.....
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I'VE DROPPED BY A COUPLE TIMES BEFORE.
I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN USING THE SAME RECIPE FOR GENERATIONS.
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
キィ
YEAH, I'M THE ONE WHO STOLE IT.
IS NOBU-KUN ANGRY AT ME?
THE MONEY... I HEARD HE GOT FIRED BECAUSE OF ME.
BECAUSE OF YOU?
THEN IT REALLY WAS YOU?
ガチャ

IF YOU WANT TO TELL ON ME, GO AHEAD!
10000
WAIT!
I'M BACK...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SENPAI?
HUH?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE I'M COOKING? WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
I WANT TO RETURN THE FAVOUR, SO I FIGURED I COULD HELP YOU CLEAN UP- SHIT, SOMETHING GOT STUCK IN IT.
AH DAMMIT.

OKAY? AREN'T YOU ANGRY THAT THEY FALSELY ACCUSED YOU?
ABOUT WHAT WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY... IT TURNS OUT IT WAS ASUKA WHO STOLE THE MONEY.
OKAY.
HER DAD WILL FEEL BETTER IF HE THINKS IT WAS ME AND NOT HER.
I TOLD YOU IT DIDN'T MATTER ANYMORE. DON'T WORRY ABOUT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL.
THEY CAN'T BLAME YOU WHEN YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...
I'M NOT OKAY WITH THAT.

HUH?!
LET'S GO COMPLAIN TO THEM.
the following week
I TOLD YOU IT WAS FINE.
THEY SHOULD BE OPEN RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT A WORRIED MOM FROM THE COUN-TRYSIDE.
COUN-TRYSIDE?
ARE YOU MY MOM OR SOMETHING? JEEZ.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
WHO CARES? YOU ALREADY BOUGHT ME CLOTHES ANYWAY.
YOU LEFT YOUR STUFF THERE TOO. WE HAVE TO GO PICK IT UP.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
ASUKA'S NOT A BAD PERSON EITHER.
THEN ALL THE MORE REASON TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER...
カラン
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PLACE? I'M NEVER COMING BACK!!
UH...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO EAT HERE?!
WE'RE VERY SORRY.
ペコ
ペコ

I SAW THAT GIRL DO IT.
THEY'RE MIXING THINGS INTO THE FOOD.
I WOULDN'T IF I WERE YOU.

ALL I DO IN THIS PLACE IS FOR YOUR SAKE!! HOW COULD YOU DO THAT...
OUR REPUTATION HAS BEEN PLUMMETING.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S BEEN CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE WE'VE BEEN HAVING?
ASUKA!!
わな
わな
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU JUST DID?! IS THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE?!

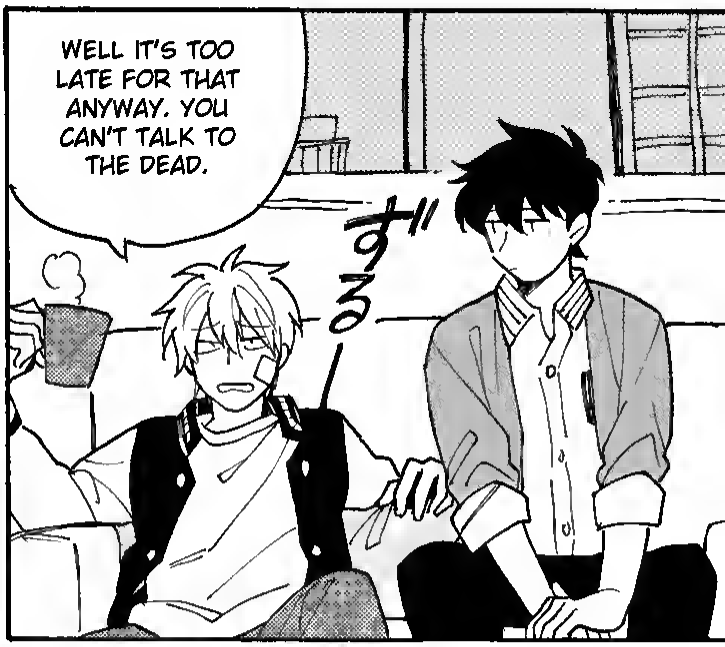
SAY SOME-THING!!
STOP!
YOU SHOULDN'T RAISE YOUR HAND AGAINST A GIRL.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?
YOU'RE JUST YELLING WITHOUT LETTING HER SAY ANYTHING.
WHAT?
I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN BREAKING YOUR BACK FOR HER.
BUT HAVE YOU EVER HEARD WHAT SHE HAS TO SAY?
EXACT-LY...!
YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT'S CONVENIENT FOR YOU... I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GET MY NAILS DONE AND GET MY EARS PIERCED...

カァ…
YOU CAN'T DO THAT IF YOU WORK HERE.
HUH?
Nails?
IT REALLY MAKES ME MAD WHEN YOU DO THAT!!
YET YOU NEVER EVEN THANK ME FOR IT! YOU ACT LIKE IT'S EXPECTED OF ME!!
WHAT? IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...
SEE, THERE YOU GO AGAIN!!
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK. I ALSO COME HERE ON MY DAYS OFF IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED!!
I KNOW I CAN'T!!
I HOPE YOU GO BANKRUPT!!
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I FEEL, SO DON'T SAY YOU'RE DOING IT ALL FOR ME!!
オロオロ
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THAT JUST BECAUSE OF SOME STUPID NAILS...
THEY'RE NOT STUPID!! YOU'RE STUPID!!
HEY NOW.
WAA~~AH

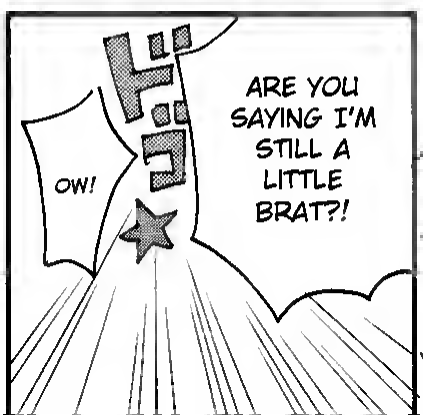
I SEE.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'LL CLOSE THE PLACE FOR A WHILE.
コト
THAT SURE WAS SOMETHING...
SEEING THOSE TWO BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.
MY MOM ALSO USED TO SAY SHE WAS WORKING FOR MY SAKE.
I RESENTED HER FOR IT SO DID THINGS TO MAKE HER MAD ON PURPOSE.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE WAS NEVER HOME. I ALWAYS ATE HALF ASSED MEALS LIKE SIDE DISH LUNCH BOXES OR INSTANT FOOD...
I PROBABLY... JUST FELT LONELY.
I REALLY WAS A BRAT BACK THEN...

IF I HAD TOLD HER HOW I FELT,
MAYBE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT.

SENPAI, YOU REALLY DO HAVE A MOTHER COMPLEX...
I'LL KILL YOU.

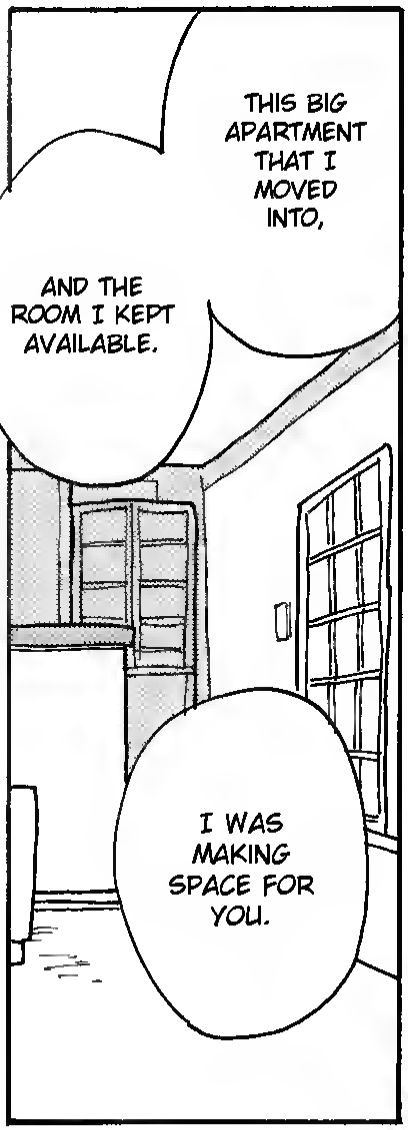

WELL IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT ANYWAY. YOU CAN'T TALK TO THE DEAD.

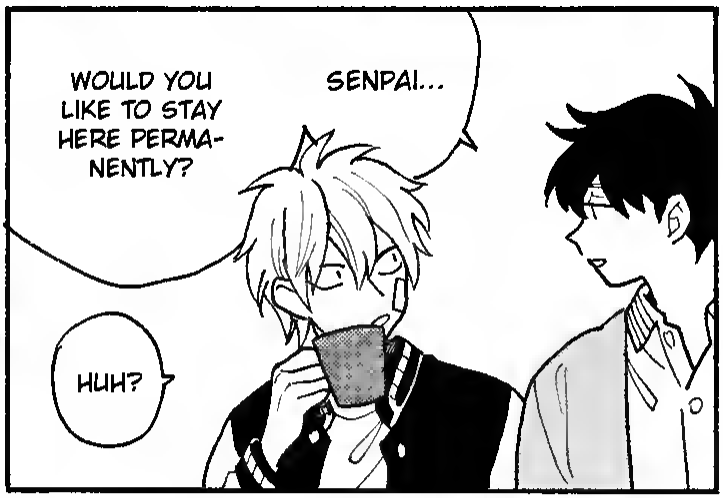
AND YOU WERE ABLE TO GET YOUR STUFF BACK AS WELL.
SUZUI-SAN APOLOGIZED TOO. HE SAID HE WAS SORRY FOR HITTING YOU...


OW!
ARE YOU SAYING I'M STILL A LITTLE BRAT?!

YOU REALLY CAN'T GET ANYTHING DONE WITHOUT ME, SENPAI.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
SORRY.


THIS BIG APARTMENT THAT I MOVED INTO,
AND THE ROOM I KEPT AVAILABLE.
I WAS MAKING SPACE FOR YOU.


SENPAI...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY HERE PERMANENTLY?
HUH?

YOU TOLD ME BEFORE. FOR YOUR LIFE TO HAVE MEANING, THERE NEEDS TO BE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO.
I FINALLY KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO.
Ftp

IT'LL ALL MEAN NOTHING IF YOU DON'T STAY HERE.
SO...
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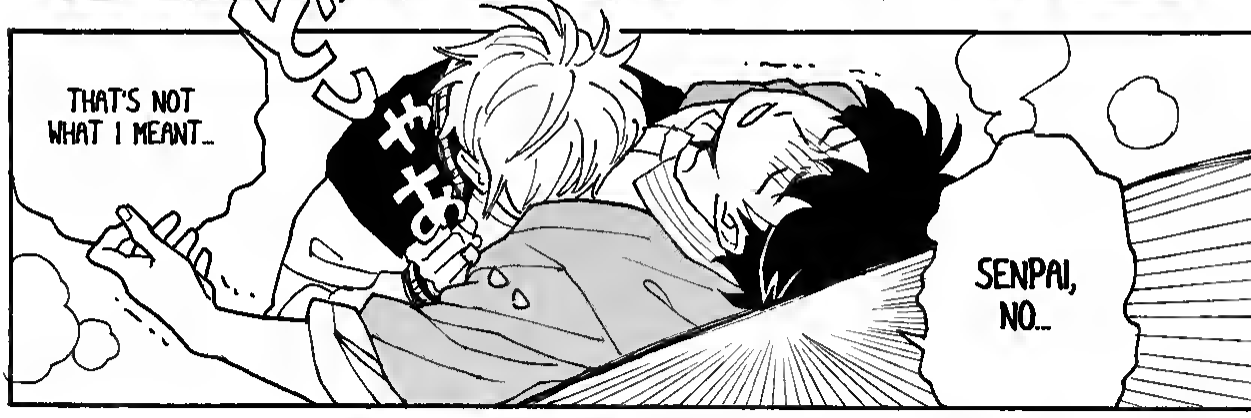
AAAAA AH!!!

WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
さっ
UM...
I JUST THOUGHT I'D GO WITH THE MOOD.
WHAT MOOD?!
DO YOU DISLIKE ME?
OF COURSE NOT... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND ME...
BUT IF YOU JUST BRING IT UP LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW...
I'M DUMB, HAVE A SHORT TEMPER, AND CAN'T CONTROL MYSELF.
THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT ME.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE THAT AROUND?

THAT'S ALRIGHT. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE SHORT TEMPERED OR WHATEVER.
I LIKE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE.
MAN. YOU'RE EMBARRASS-ING...
BEING AROUND YOU MAKES ME LOSE MY COOL.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT I WON'T PRESSURE YOU...
I NEVER SAID I DIDN'T LIKE ANYTHING!!
Don't be mad...

IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, IT'S FINE BY ME.
I DO LIKE YOU TOO ANYWAY...
I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU.

WHY-


THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
SENPAI, NO...

YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE HONEST...
SHUT UP.

CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING A PART TIME JOB.
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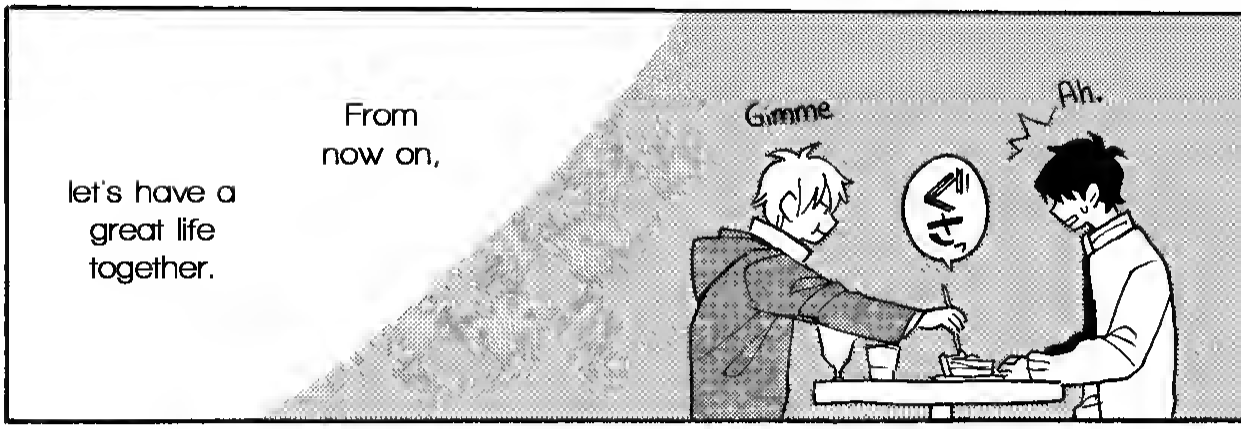
ぽち
YOU CAN SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR UNEMPLOYED SELF.
BY THE WAY, SUZUI-SAN IS RE-OPENING THE RESTAURANT.
WE SHOULD GO TOGETHER NEXT TIME.
SURE, I GUESS..
ALSO,
LET'S EAT A LOT OF OTHER GOOD STUFF AND HAVE FUN.
HELL YEAH.
THE INTERVIEWS GO BETTER WHEN THEY KNOW YOU'RE NOT LIVING ON THE STREETS.
.....

TOGETHER.

YOU BET.


From now on,
let's have a great life together.
Gimme
Ah.

End.

S A I A K U N O J I N S E I

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TYPESETTING
M'AIDER

PROOFREADING
ARI